

**CLERK'S SUMMARY AND OFFICIAL MINUTES
MIAMI-DADE COUNTY
MAYOR'S MENTAL HEALTH
TASK FORCE MEETING
JANUARY 31, 2006**

The Mayor's Mental Health Task Force (MMHTF) met in the Stephen P. Clark Government Center, Conference Room 18-3 & 18-4, 111 N.W. First Street, Miami, Florida at 10:25 a.m. on January 31, 2006, there being present Honorable Steve Leifman, Co-Chair, MMHTF; Co-Chairman Jack Lowell, MMHTF; Co-Chairwoman Silvia Quintana, MMHTF and Task Force members Ms. Leda Perez; Commissioner Natacha Seijas; Mr. Mark Buchbinder; Ms. Carolyn Wilson; Dr. Judy Rosenbaum; Ms. Wansley Walters; Honorable Cindy S. Lederman; Ms. Terry Chavez, representing the Honorable Katherine Fernandez Rundle; Mr. Mario Jardon; Ms. Sandra Rothman; Mr. David Raymond; Dr. Charles LoPiccolo; Dr. Dan Brady; Mr. Joseph P. George Jr.; Ms. Isabel Afanador; Major Kathy Katerman, representing Chief Linda Loizzo, Dade County Association of Chiefs of Police; Mr. Tyrone Williams Jr., representing Mr. Charles McRay; Ms. Judith Robinson; Mr. Jeremy Glazer, representing Commissioner Katy Sorenson; Anders Madsen, Esq., representing the Honorable Maria Korvick; Ms. Rebecca Cox, representing the Honorable Bennett Brummer; Assistant County Attorney Valda Clark Christian; Dr. Joseph Poitier; Mr. Ronald Book, Esq.; Mr. Richard Adams; Ms. Cynthia Baldwin representing Cheryl Brantley; and Deputy Clerk Judy Marsh.

Also present were Ms. Cindy Schwartz, Director, Jail Diversion Program; Honorable Lester Langer; Ms. Freeda Bridges; L.F. Pomilio; Ms. L. Ann Cumbie and Mr. Dan Ricker.

I. Welcome and Introductions

Honorable Steve Leifman, Associate Administrative Judge, Eleventh Judicial District of Florida and Co-Chairman, Miami-Dade County Mayor's Mental Health Task Force (MMHTF), called the meeting to order at 10:25 a.m.

II. Approval of Minutes

The Task Force members by motion duly made, seconded and carried, approved the minutes of the November 10, 2005 Mayor's Mental Health Task Force meeting.

III. Presentation: Overview of Juvenile Justice System and Child/Adolescent Mental Health Needs – Judge Cindy S. Lederman, Judge Lester Langer and Ms. Wansley Walters

Judge Leifman noted Judge Lederman, Judge Langer and Ms. Wansley Walters would discuss the Juvenile System and Mental Health Issues. He stated that the three representatives were nationally acclaimed in this subject and thanked them for being present.

Judge Lederman made a presentation on mental health issues pertaining to the child welfare system. She stated the recognition that one out of ten children and adolescents suffered from mental illness was a recent phenomenon in the United States which could also result in significant functional impairment. Judge Lederman also cited several publications and studies including the World Health Organization indicated that by the year 2020, childhood psychiatric disorders would increase by fifty percent. She spoke of the historical discovery of growing cases of children with psychosocial disorders; however, she mentioned that it was not until 1980 that childhood adolescent mental disorders were classified separately, and recently became a new area of study.

Judge Lederman said data indicated 45% of children in the foster-care system had mental health disorders of which mood disorder and depression, oppositional defiance disorder, post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD), conduct disorders and adjustment disorders were the five most common disorders. She noted alcohol and substance abuse were more prevalent among males in the foster-care system while depression and PTSD were more prevalent among females. Judge Lederman said a pediatric study indicated that toddlers and pre-schoolers in the child welfare system had high developmental and behavioral needs; however, very few children received services. She commented on the developmental delays experienced by young children in the foster-care system versus children in the general population. The most significant delays Judge Lederman said were speech and language delays.

Judge Lederman discussed the mental health services provided to children in the child welfare system and the cost of these services. She compared the vast difference of monthly expense between children in the welfare system and non-welfare children.

Judge Langer discussed children entering the delinquency system from the child welfare and foster care system. He noted approximately 54% of abused children were likely to enter the delinquent system with an average of 600 children transitioning from foster care to the delinquency system.

Judge Langer spoke in support of the Girls Advocacy Program (GAP) and referred to a case study which indicated that approximately 23% of the girls had a family history of mental health disorder and 84% of the girls had some type of trauma in their lives, the most frequent of which was witnessing a violent attack on someone else. He noted the study further indicated that 70-80% of the participants met some type of diagnostic criterion for one of the most common mental health disorders including anxiety, major depressive disorder and attention deficit hyperactivity disorder. Judge Langer said while conduct disorder was low within this program; 34% met clinical criteria for alcohol, marijuana or other substance abuse or dependency issues. He noted there was a large dysfunctional population among these girls entering the delinquency system.

Judge Langer discussed the difficulties experienced by parents in receiving assistance to care for children with mental health disorders and difficulties in administering medication to these children. He noted failure of child welfare to diagnose mental health issues in children at an early age resulted in children committing criminal acts. Judge Langer requested assistance from the Task Force in addressing a better system of services for parents and for the court system to provide assistance to children entering the juvenile delinquency system.

Ms. Wansley Walters discussed the Juvenile Assessment Center (JAC), the processing center for juveniles arrested in Miami-Dade County. She noted of the 43,281 adolescents processed at the JAC, 45% were classified as special education students from the school system and approximately 62,000 were in the special education program. Ms. Walters said the majority of the 19,000 adolescents processed through the JAC were severely emotionally disturbed. She concluded that results may prove the population was greater than reported.

Ms. Walters noted while juvenile arrests declined within the past eight years, that numbers were on the rise again. She noted the Miami-Dade County Courts provided screening for juveniles arrested and 50% of the children required assessment for anger, irritability, depression, suicide and substance abuse. Ms. Walters noted approximately 75% of juvenile adolescents needed special services.

Ms. Walters said the JAC and the Juvenile Justice Department were combining research data into a system of practical application. She expressed concern regarding children ages 12 years and younger who were arrested for random acts of violence towards strangers. Ms. Walters said new assessment tools were being developed to identify and provide intervention for children who demonstrated the characteristics of criminal behavior. She noted children entering the juvenile justice system were placed in another category with no assistance available to meet their needs.

Ms. Walters discussed the JAC's efforts to decrease the number of juveniles arrested through various proactive strategies including pre-arrest, advertisements, understanding extreme risk factors and educating parents, teachers and the media while assessing and providing referrals in a mobile setting. She noted the JAC had a 24-hour crisis service

available to assist parents. Ms. Walters requested the Task Force proactively focus on mental health services for the age group referenced to prevent future crimes.

In response to Mr. Raymond's remarks regarding the Request for Proposal (RFP) for a capitated mental health system and the Statewide Carve Out RFP for children engaged in the foster care system, Ms. Silvia Quintana said she could not discuss the procurement process that the Department of Children and Families with Medicaid was engaged in for the proposed capitated system. She noted she was not familiar with the details of the Statewide Carve Out RFP.

Ms. Judy Rosenbaum concurred with Ms. Quintana regarding the Statewide Carve Out RFP and suggested communicating with Tallahassee to determine the status of the RFP. She suggested the Task Force form another subcommittee to focus on how available resources could be utilized more effectively in providing assistance to the children. Ms. Rosenbaum noted the subcommittee should address the needs of adolescents with mental health issues and that the school system and representatives of the Parents Teachers Association should be invited to provide input on these issues.

Commissioner Seijas concurred with Ms. Rosenbaums' suggestion. She recommended the proposed subcommittee be charged with developing immediate and long-term strategies to address mental health issues within the community.

Judge Leifman stated the issue being discussed fell under the jurisdiction of the Criminal Mental Health Project Subcommittee; however, a subcommittee would be created to address these issues. He said he would meet with Ms. Walters regarding expansion of the juvenile aspect of the Crisis Intervention Team (CIT) policing program.

Mr. Mario Jardon noted that effective May 1, 2006, approximately 60% of a 400,000 population would be referred to HMOs, and a pre-paid plan was currently being developed for approval by March 15, 2006. He emphasized the need to monitor the financial system issues for this program.

Mr. Book suggested changes not be made in the mental health agreement unless necessary. He noted at this point, issues other than the delivery of services by the State were involved, and he did not have any concrete answers. Mr. Book noted; however, members of this body or those who rely on service delivery, should be concerned that more than half of those services were about to be turned over to private, for-profit managed care providers. He pointed out that members of this Task Force needed time and experience to become knowledgeable on the health care delivery systems before they could advocate to the legislature the type of changes needed.

Ms. Leda Perez, Community Voices of Miami, questioned the opportunities available to members of the Task Force to request the State of Florida reevaluate the Medicaid Reform as it relates to mental health.

Judge Leifman noted that the Finance, Sustainability and Policy Subcommittee was responsible for advocating the Task Force's concerns/recommendations in the Florida Legislature. He concurred with Mr. Book that members would need time to understand the issues, to observe and to develop solutions that would be favorable to this community.

Mr. Book clarified, for the record that Medicaid Reform was not about outcomes and services, but about money and cutting a 30/40 percent increase in services. He noted the delivery of services for the poor was facing difficult times and many of the existing providers would not survive.

Mr. Joseph George concurred with Mr. Book, noting one of the things the Legislature did to provide access into the diminishing system was to create as a part of the Baker Act, the Florida Substance Abuse Mental Health Corporation (FSAMHC). He mentioned that he was the only representative for South Florida along with two other persons from Broward County.

Miami-Dade County was on the verge of privatizing all services, which was costing a lot more and the State of Florida was willing to pay for it through Medicaid, Mr. George noted. He urged Task Force members to visit the Web Site (SAMHCORP.ORG) and post their questions, concerns and/or feedback/recommendations and as Vice Chair of the FSAMHC, he would ensure that it was placed on the agenda for discussion. Mr. George reassured Task Force members that any written questions/feedback would be addressed when the FSAMHC met in Tallahassee.

Mr. Raymond asked that a presentation be provided by Ms. Judy Rosenbaum at the next meeting on the status of efforts involving children in the foster care system. He also suggested that a public education campaign be launched to educate the consumers and that Task Force members and consumer groups be involved in this campaign.

Ms. Rosenbaum noted the presentation would be prepared as requested by Mr. Raymond. She pointed out that the Medicaid eligible/enrolled population was only one segment of the population and this body needed to consider the uninsured or the uninsurable.

Judge Leifman noted this body would continue to work on these issues; that they should not wait for the Federal Judiciary to fix the problem because it may be impossible considering the type of legislation passed by Congress in the last few years. He said it was incumbent upon people like Mr. Book to educate local bodies on how to address these issues in the Legislature.

Judge Leifman noted this was a productive, illuminating discussion. He expressed appreciation to each of the speakers and noted Ms. Rosenbaum and Co-Chairwoman Silvia Quintana would be placed on the next agenda to provide an overview of the status of this project and expected outcome(s).

IV. Presentation: Costs Incurred by Health Care Facilities as a Result of Changes to Article V – Mr. Jeremy Johnson, South Florida Hospital and Health Care Association (SFHHCA)

Mr. Jeremy Johnson, South Florida Hospital and Health Care Association (SFHHCA), expressed appreciation to each of the speakers. He provided an update on the impact of changes to Article V on Miami-Dade County's health care systems. Mr. Johnson noted before the enactment of Article V revisions, the Guardian Advocate Program was funded by the Courts, but it was eliminated when funding for the County Courts systems shifted to the State. He encouraged Task Force members to consider funding this program on a permanent basis in the upcoming Legislative Session.

Mr. Johnson commended Commissioner Natacha Seijas whom he noted had sponsored a resolution to address this issue in Miami-Dade County. He noted the Miami-Dade County Courts and Department of Children and Families had developed training manuals for persons wishing to become Guardian Advocates.

Mr. Book questioned the difference in the Guardian Ad Litem Program and the Guardian Advocate Program. Ms. Rosenbaum explained that the Guardian Ad Litem Program involved unpaid volunteers and it was funded through the Legislature.

Mr. Book noted he was completely unaware of the Guardian Advocate Program. Mr. Johnson noted he would meet with Mr. Book and provide an overview of this program. He noted the Guardian Advocate Program was completely separate from the Guardian Ad Litem Program, which was a statewide entity.

Following further discussion regarding the Guardian Advocate Program, Commissioner Seijas noted the language pertaining to the Guardian Advocate Program was submitted in the form of a resolution under her sponsorship.

Mr. George responded to questions from Ms. Judith Robinson, NAMI, who requested the names of individual(s) to speak to regarding the program. He suggested Ms. Robinson contact Mr. Luis Kimler, Magistrate Judge.

Concerning Mr. Book's comments that he did not receive a copy of the Article V revisions, Mr. George noted he would provide Mr. Book with a copy.

Mr. David Raymond said that the success of the Guardian Ad Litem Program could be attributed to people like Ms. Rosenbaum and others who actually served as Guardian Ad Litem volunteers. He recommended that the Guardian Advocate Program be defined and formalized.

Judge Leifman concurred with Mr. Raymond, who suggested the Guardian Advocate Program be expanded to the Criminal Justice System.

Ms. Rebecca Cox, representing Honorable Bennett Brummer, Public Defender, indicated that the court system funded \$75.00 per case and the advocates were all Miami-Dade County attorneys. Additionally, Ms. Cox noted the lawyers were providing this service at the request of the Probate judge who needed guardian advocates. She noted the guardian advocate's authority ends when the patient is released.

Mr. Book responded that he would address the State regarding Article V, to determine what could be done.

Mr. Joseph George said the issues were much more complicated than inadequate funding. He noted if patients were untreatable, the hospital would have to release individuals with mental health disorders back into the community. Mr. George commended Mr. Johnson for allowing his non-profit agency to serve as a receiving facility although the Baker Act had limitations.

Judge Leifman stated the Task Force would refer this issue for review and recommendations by an appropriate Subcommittee before forwarding it to the Legislature.

In response to Ms Robinson's suggestion that managed care and privatized agencies pay for the guardian advocates, Mr. George said it would be a conflict unless the independent agency had no vested interest.

Judge Leifman requested updates from Subcommittees and commended participants for the progress that was made thus far.

V. Subcommittee Updates/Reports:

A. Criminal Mental Health Project Subcommittee

Judge Leifman, Co-Chair, Criminal Mental Health Project Subcommittee, provided an update. He submitted copies of a written report to Task Force members, and discussed initiatives being undertaken in response to the Grand Jury's recommendations as follows:

1. The Subcommittee has developed a curriculum for Crisis Intervention Training (CIT) for correctional officers; twenty officers have been trained and an additional 60 officers are scheduled to receive training this year.
2. An incentive pay increase of 5% was negotiated and approved for correctional officers working in mental health units.
3. The Subcommittee is working with Commissioner Seijas in re-submitting a legislative budget for revolving funds to provide immediate services for patients released from jail. Release of these funds would be distributed through a contract with Social Security/Medicaid representatives and the consumer to provide benefits.

4. Secured all positions currently funded by the federal grant regarding expansion of the Eleventh Judicial Circuit of Florida Criminal Mental Health Project.
5. CIT program is progressing and by February, twenty-one agencies with approximately 1,000 officers would have received CIT training.
6. Implemented special training program for 911 officers to properly identify mental health calls and trained 58 dispatchers from 13 agencies.
7. Divided other issues into three Subcommittees:
 - Housing - With efforts from the Criminal Mental Health Project members and the Homeless Trust there has been an 11% increase in taxes filtering more money into the housing project for released offenders.

Evidence Based Practices Program – An all community mental health system that would utilize best practices for the community.

Public Relations Program – To educate the community in accessing services and CIT. Working with Public Utility Services to place a notice on consumer bills of designated CIT operations by zip code areas.

Judge Leifman indicated that the Subcommittee would follow Commissioner Seijas's recommendation in adding another Subcommittee to address juvenile issues.

B. Mental Health Diversion Facility Subcommittee

Co-Chair Jack Lowell, Mental Health Diversion Facility Subcommittee, provided an update on activities regarding the proposed mental health diversion facility. He noted that the location for the replacement facility for the existing operation was approved by the County Commission and could be relocated by the Year 2008. He said the Subcommittee had identified a consultant with a fair amount of experience in the design and operation of the proposed diversion facility to analyze this facility and present his assessment to the Mental Health Diversion Facility Subcommittee. The Subcommittee would seek advice and assistance from the County Attorney's Office, the General Services Administration (GSA) and other County departments to determine the best method to secure the real estate and to resolve any zoning and/or title issues, Mr. Lowell noted.

C. Baker Act/AOT Subcommittee

Ms. Silvia Quintana, Co-Chair, Baker Act/AOT Subcommittee, noted the Subcommittee's workgroups were working on various issues, including liability of legal issues involving involuntary outpatients and all subcommittees were expected to present reports at the next meeting. She also noted the Criteria Workgroup developed criterion for the involuntary outpatient which was currently being reviewed for legal sufficiency. Additionally, Ms. Quintana noted a group was analyzing/reviewing the issues involving

the guardian advocates program. Ms. Quintana said a subcommittee was looking at the cost of implementation of the involuntary outpatient services for consumers, using a low-demand recovery model approach

D. Mental Health Care Finance and Sustainability Subcommittee

Mr. David Raymond, Co-Chair, Mental Health Care Finance and Sustainability Subcommittee, noted the Subcommittee identified goals from the Grand Jury report and determined which goals needed to be funded and assigned them to the various committees. He noted the following:

- 1.) Pay incentives to correctional officers working with mentally ill inmates;
- 2.) Working to construct the proposed mental health diversion facility;
- 3.) Funding for Baker Act Reform, new law for involuntary commitment, the guardian advocates and additional community supportive housing and other structure;
- 4.) Funding for Crisis Care Unit and restructure funding to get people out of Baker Act facilities and jails into permanent housing.
- 5.) Develop matching funds to expand the Criminal Mental Health Project
- 6.) Working on entitlement issues with Social Security.

Mr. Raymond concluded by saying the Subcommittee was trying to determine whether to hire specialized staff to service clients or whether resources were available through the community.

Mr. Raymond noted with the support of the County Commission, Mr. Book, and the Homeless Trust Board, House Bill 869 was sponsored for the 30/30 initiative requesting that Florida Housing Finance Corporation set aside affordable housing units for people at 30% of the area medium income. He urged Task Force members and Mr. Book to monitor this legislation closely, and noted it may be necessary for Task Force members to send support letters and whatever else Mr. Book deemed appropriate.

VI. Other Task Force Items

Ms. Isabel Afanador stated that some law enforcement officers for CIT dispatchers were unaware how to identify issues dealing with children. She asked that the CIT train dispatchers to empower them to ask similar questions to children and the same information to be given to children agencies.

In response to Ms. Afanador stating she received a form used by officers of CIT, Judge Leifman noted that the form was a draft for officers to complete and asked her to provide specific issues to be addressed on the form for children. He also stated that every agency would use a standardized form upon completion to record better statistics.

Ms. Afanador said the Juvenile Services Department was equipped to provide appropriate feedback to the Task Force and indicated the importance of how information was

distributed, assessed and identified to provide services. She said there were series of elements to be reviewed by the Task Force.

Judge Leifman responded that the last Subcommittee meeting had poor attendance due to a conflict with major children's events and he ensured a review of issues would be undertaken at the next meeting.

Judge Leifman said deadlines for Subcommittee reports to the Task Force would be implemented and he thanked the Task Force members for their participation. He deciphered between certain issues that were capable of being addressed and others that needed documentation.

Judge Leifman concluded by mentioning the presentation he made to the Chief Justices of the State Supreme Courts regarding mental health issues. He noted the Chief Justices endorsed the mental health initiatives being undertaken locally and statewide and asked each Chief Justice to establish local task forces around the country.

Judge Leifman said deadlines for the Subcommittees would be provided.

VII. Adjournment

There being no further business to come before the Task Force, the meeting was adjourned at 12:09 p.m.